

A comprehensive clean-up of clean-up of special district and local government election laws

Implementation of House Bill 84

Office of Montana Secretary of State
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Elections and Government Services
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House bill 84 was the result of a SAVA interim study on election laws

Purpose "the purpose of HB 84 is to consolidate, simplify, and standardize, to the extent feasible, dates and deadlines for special purpose district elections and for local government elections to provide consistency for election administrators and voters."





Date Date held will be held

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16	107	16	19	20	21
29	24	26	26	27	26
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Special Purpose **District** elections will be held on school election day

Special
Special
District
District
Election
Exceptions
Th

House Bill 84



The following do not have to be held on school election day:

C

A question affecting district funding, such as fee assessments, bonds, or the sale or lease of property

A conservation
district election
must be held on
must be held on
a primary or
general election
general day.

Special Special Pistrict District Filection Filection Fixeeptions

House Bill 84





If specifically authorized by law, a special purpose district election may be held at the district's annual meeting.



"an area with special boundaries created as authorized by law for a specialized and limited purpose"

- ➤ Most units of government other than city, county or consolidated city-county.
- Examples:

Water/sewer districts, irrigation districts, fire districts, hospital districts

What is a special purpose district?

Date Date Teld Will be Held

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Local Government elections will be held on primary or general election day EXCEPT

An election concerning funding may be called as a special election

June 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
10						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		
26	21	28	29	30		

November 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			
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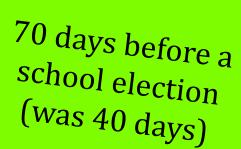


- Notice of special district elections and bond elections must be given at least three times no earlier than 40 days and no later than 10 days before the election
- Notice of school election/community college election must be given at least three times no earlier than 40 days and no later than 10 days before the election (change for school elections from 30-20 days)
 - School trustees must give notice of cancellation of an election no later than 30 days before the election (change from 25 days)









Petitions Nomination

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Requirement for certain certain candidates* to callect signatures and file a petition is for nomination is



Candidate Filing Deadlines

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145 days to 85
days for federal,
local, special
district,
community
college elections

Change for those special those special stricts 75 from 135.75

145 days to 40
days for school
elections
(change from 35
day close of filing)

Write-in Write-in Filing Withdrawal Deadlines

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Write-in Deadlines:
30 days for special
district elections;
31 days for school
elections; 35 days
for other elections

Withdrawal
Deadlines: 85 days
before election day
(31 days for
schools)

Ballot Certification Certification

House Bill 84







CPP Deadlines

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77 days before primary, 83 days before general to both SOS and County EA

Note: a separate bill (SB151) removed the requirement for candidates to file campaign reports and forms, including the C-1-A and C-3 forms with county election



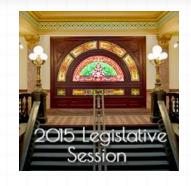


Late Registration applies to all elections, including school elections

- ✓ Regular registration closes 30 days before election day
- ✓ Late registration begins the next day and ends at close of polls on election day
 - ✓ Late registration closes temporarily at noon the day before election day

Absentee Ballots

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Ballots are sent 25 days before election day for school, local and state/federal elections; 20 days for special district and school bond elections



Ballots must still be available for in-person and late registration voting 30 days/29 days before election day

Absentee Ballots

House Bill 84



Ballots for Military and
Overseas voters
covered under UOCAVA
must still be sent 45
days before election
day for state/federal
elections

Mail Ballots

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Ballots are sent
20-15 days before
election day for all
mail ballot
elections
(change from 2515 days)



Ballots must still be available for inperson and late registration voting 30 days/29 days before election day

Other

House Bill 84



- ✓ Community College Elections will be run by county election administrators
 - ✓ Petitions for community college regents will be filed with county election administrators
- ✓ A county superintendent of schools term will begin Jan. 1 following election (instead of the first Monday in January)





Other legislation to be aware of:

- O House Bill 529 Prohibit Candidate from Serving as a Poll Watcher at Certain Polling Places
 - Effective October 1, 2015
- O House Bill 580 Prohibiting Certain Persons from Distributing things of value at Polling Places
 - Effective October 1, 2015
 - Things of value: alcohol, tobacco, food, drink or anything of value (within 100 feet)

Montana Secretary of State Linda Mc Culloch



Questions?
Contact the
Contact the
Secretary of State
at
soselections@mt.
gov

The preceding is a summary of the substantive changes to election law in HB 84. Review the entire bill at http://leg.mt.gov/bills/2015/billp df/HB0084.pdf